

CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Previously amended) A modular rack-mounting system comprising:

a frame suitable for mounting on an instrument rack, the frame forming a central compartment having a top, a bottom and two sides;

a sleeve within which an instrument may be mounted, the sleeve being configured to be inserted and fit within the central compartment; and

means for detachably securing the sleeve within the central compartment.

Claim 2. (Previously amended) The modular rack-mounting system as recited in claim 1 wherein the securing means comprises:

a spring mounted on the frame;

a button mounted on the spring and extending through a hole in the frame into the central compartment to engage a corresponding hole in the sleeve when the sleeve is inserted within the central compartment, the button being accessible from the interior of the sleeve so that, when the button is depressed from the interior of the sleeve, the sleeve may be readily removed from the central compartment.

Claim 3. (Previously amended) The modular rack-mounting system as recited in claim 1 wherein the frame comprises:

a left portion having fingers; and

a right portion having fingers, the fingers of the left and right portions interlocking with each other to assure rigidity of the frame.

Claim 4. (Previously amended) The modular rack-mounting system as recited in claim 1 further comprising a central rib mounted within the frame to form a central wall that divides the central compartment into two equal compartments, the sleeve being configured to fit within either compartment.

Claim 5. (Previously amended) The modular rack-mounting system as recited in claim 4 wherein the securing means comprises:

- an inner spring mounted on the central rib;

- a button mounted on the inner spring to engage a hole in the sleeve when the sleeve is inserted into one of the two compartments, the button being accessible from the interior of the sleeve so that, when the button is depressed from the interior of the sleeve, the sleeve may be readily removed from the one compartment.

Claim 6. (Canceled)

Claim 7. (Previously Amended) The modular rack-mounting system as recited in claim 4 wherein the securing means comprises:

- a first inner spring mounted on a first side of the central rib having a first button mounted on one end; and

- a second inner spring mounted on a second side of the central rib in an opposing manner to the first inner spring and having a second button mounted on one end, the first and second buttons being mounted to engage corresponding holes in respective sleeves when the respective sleeves are inserted into the two compartments, the central rib having a rib hole between the button ends of the first

and second inner springs to allow the button ends to deform into the rib hole when the buttons are depressed for removing the sleeves from the compartments.

Claim 8. (New) The modular rack-mounting system as recited in claims 4, 5 or 7 wherein the securing means comprises:

- an outer spring mounted on the frame;

- a button mounted on the outer spring and extending through a hole in the frame into one of the two compartments to engage a corresponding hole in the sleeve when the sleeve is inserted within the one compartment.